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OPEN LETTERS.

TWO CORRECTIONS.

THE SOURCE OF WELWITSCHIA.

READERS of the BOTANICAL GAZETTE are requested to correct an inadvertence in the August number, page 152, where it is stated that the inflorescence and dissections of Welwitschia recently given by us were made from a plant growing at Kew. The specimens were sent to me by Mr. Dinter, a German botanist and horticulturist, now settled in German S. W. Africa. The details are given in his letter published in *The Gardeners' Chronicle* 24: 27. 1898. After making some gross dissections, I handed the material to Professor Farmer for more minute investigation.—MAXWELL T. MASTERS, *London*.

CONFUSED SPECIES OF AGROPYRON.

I am indebted to Mr. Jared G. Smith, of the Division of Agrostology of the Department of Agriculture, for calling my attention to an error in the article "Vegetation Regions of the Prairie Province" in the GAZETTE for June 1898. The grass referred to on page 385, 9th line from the bottom, should be *Agropyron spicatum*. *A. spicatum* should also be read instead of *A. pseudorepens* on page 394, 4th line from the top. *A. pseudorepens* is a grass of the meadow formation as stated on page 389; the xerophyte of the foothill region is *A. spicatum*. The same correction should be made in the Phytogeography of Nebraska in the discussion of the foothill grass formation.

This removes what seemed to be an anomaly in ecology. That the same species should be a mesophyte of the meadows and wet cañons and also a xerophyte of the table lands of the foothill region, was a puzzle. Confusion of two closely related species, which have commonly passed under the same name of *A. glaucum*, was at the root of the matter. It is very gratifying to have the systematists clear up ecological problems in this manner.—ROSCOE POUND, *Lincoln, Neb.*